(b) how many such cases are reported regularly;

(c) how long they are pending with CVC;

(d) what steps are being takan to punish the guilty; and

(e) whether it is a fact that there is a deliberate attempt to shield the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (e) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is the Disciplinary Authority in respect of member of Indian Administrative Service serving in connection with the affairs of the Centre and CSS (Gr. I and above) officers only. The State Governments are competent to take action against members of the Indian Administrative Service for any misconduct committed while serving under the State. Data regarding the number of cases pending against other senior level officers at the Centre including the IAS officers of the respective State Government is not centrally maintained.

(b) As far as this Ministry is concerned, as on date, 14 cases against serving IAS officers and 15 cases against serving CSS (Gr. I and above) initiated by this Department are pending.

The Central Vigilance Commission is not maintaining any separate data in respect of senior bureaucrats nor is the Commission concerned with cases against State Government employees. As on 31.1.2000, 1,512 cases were pending with the Commission for advice out of which 144 cases were pending for six months. The Commission generally takes two months to tender advice in cases which are complete in all respects.

After obtaining the Commission's advice, disciplinary proceedings against the delinquent officers are conducted as per the procedure prescribed in the respective Discipline and Appeal Rules. Penalty is imposed on the officers found guilty after consulting the UPSC—such consultation is mandatory under the rules. There is deliberate attempt to shield the guilty.

Proposal for effecting cut in prices of HSD

1612. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sent a proposal for effecting a cut in the domestic prices of High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any response has been received to this proposal from the PMO and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Study conducted by EIL on setting up of Gas Based Industries

1613. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of study conducted by EIL to explore the feasibility of setting up gas-based industries in Tripura.

(b) if so, what are the industries that have been recommended as having the potentiality of being set up in the State; and

(c) whether any of those industries has any likelihood of being set up in Tripura in Public/Government sector during the Ninth FiveYear Plan with liberal assistance from Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the study conducted by Engineers India Ltd. (EIL), conversion of Natural Gas to Liquid/Solid Hydrocarbons using Renteck Technology was identified as a potential industry.

(c) No, Sir. The Licensors of Rentech Technology in India have not shown adequate interest to proceed further in the matter.

CAG Objections on the loss of preparation of Tender Documents

1614. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG has raised any objection for "Avoidable loss of Rs. 7.61 crore due to negligence in the preparation of tender documents" under para 12.5.2 on page No. 131 in report No. 3 of 1999 (Commercial); and